

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Austria Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

September 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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FORWARDED

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FORM 1-79

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USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

12 October 1988
FBIS-3016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
FROM : Chief, Vienna Bureau
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Austria Bureau - September 1988

I. GENERAL

The dollar slipped a little in September, averaging 13.13 Austrian schillings to 1 U.S. dollar, down from 13.19 to 1 in August. The high was AS 13.22 during the month. *

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Events in East Europe brought an abrupt end to the August vacation lull. The Polish strike situation and the election of Mieczyslaw Rakowski as premier kept consumer interest in Polish affairs high. The Yugoslav team meanwhile put in many extra hours monitoring the continued unrest in that country. Hungarian-Romanian relations suffered another blow as 12 Romanians sought asylum in the Hungarian Embassy in Bucharest. Large demonstrations in Hungary protesting construction of the Nagymaros dam on the Danube further added to the workload of the Bureau's lone Hungarian monitor.

2. The month and the fiscal year ended without a single EOD of the four new monitors (two Russian, one Polish and one Czech) the Bureau has had in processing since June after a recruiting effort begun in January. Some hope remains that one of the Russian candidates will join us shortly. The Polish and second Russian applicants probably will not be aboard before January 1989; the Czech candidate has been disqualified on security grounds. A major new recruitment effort will be initiated in late October or early November.

B. Communications

AU's primary circuit suffered outages totaling 6 hours and 27 minutes during September. There was no single major problem area.

C. Lateral Services

1. The Bureau provided the CSCE delegation in Vienna with copies of Soviet material on the 25 July Shevardnadze foreign policy speech and also lent support to the delegation by faxing to them requested items on the 30 September CPSU plenum.

2. The BBC expressed appreciation for Bureau's timely processing of the Albanian Foreign Ministry statement on the Yugoslav situation from Tirana radio on 22 September.

3. Russian monitor [] received high praise from the Embassy for a rush translation job he did for the MBFR delegation on 27 September.

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4. The American Embassy in Belgrade made an informal request to temporarily receive drop copies of Slovene language material processed by FBIS, with a formal decision on whether to become a permanent recipient to be made after a trial period running through the end of October. Appropriate arrangements were made to ensure the receipt of Slovene items filed by Vienna and London for the requested period of time.

D. Technical

1. Bureau technicians conducted a one-week test of a VI 2422 modem for possible use in place of the Headquarters supplied Trailblazer modem for IDD communications. The VI 2422, which was borrowed from a local firm, Data-Technik, is approved for use by the Austrian PTT while the Trailblazer is not. The modem was tested with the Bureau's Trailblazer, simulating use with a Headquarters modem. It was found that the VI 2422 could communicate with the Trailblazer only if the settings on the latter were changed to meet the VI 2422 standards. Meanwhile a successful IDD test with Headquarters was conducted using the Bureau's Trailblazer modem. It is still uncertain when and if the Trailblazer will be approved for use by the Austrian PTT. Installation of a new phone line for IDD use is expected within the next few weeks.

2. The two HP RW480 printers received from Headquarters were installed on the LAN.

3. Two of the three Cubic receivers being tested at the Bureau for FED were found to have faulty modules. The three modules in question have been returned directly to Cubic for investigation and repair. Headquarters advised that replacement modules are en route.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

A Periodic Step Increase was received by Senior Associate Editor [] (to FBN-11/08).

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B. Building and Grounds

The Bureau's Siemens fire detection system was modified by a Siemens technician to enable it to be connected to the recently installed Selectone alarm system.

IV. VISITS

A. To the Bureau:

1. Mr. Jim Hughes, a new Embassy political officer, received a Bureau orientation 26 September.

2. Washington Headquarters analyst [redacted] spent a day at the Bureau on 19 September meeting with Bulgarian and Albanian monitors and receiving a Bureau orientation.

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B. From the Bureau:

1. Bureau Chief [redacted] departed on 12 September for the Bureau Chiefs Conference in Reston and a subsequent TDY at London Bureau.

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2. [redacted] Deputy Bureau Chief, visited the Belgrade Embassy 13-15 September to discuss Belgrade television coverage.

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3. Bureau Engineer [redacted] spent 16-27 September on orientation TDY's in London and Islamabad.

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[redacted]
Chief, Austrian Bureau

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau

Attachments:

Production Report

Staff Personnel Report

Non-Staff Personnel Report